

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8347

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 08531

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEWT, UR, GW

SUBJECT: MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP OF THE JOINT

FRG/USSR MIXED ECONOMIC COMMISSION

REF: (A) BONN 8087, (B) BONN 4881

1. SUMMARY. AFTER UNEVENTFUL WORKING GROUP MEETING IN MOSCOW, SOVIET/ GERMAN SCENE WILL SHIFT TO BONN WHERE MIXED COMMISSION MEETS JUNE 2 AND 3. SOVIET INTENTIONS REGARDING POSSIBLE INITIATIVES (IN PREPARATION FOR THE BREZHNEV VISIT) ARE NOT CLEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. WORKING GROUP MEETING (MAY 10 AND 11 IN MOSCOW) WAS TOTALLY UNEVENTFUL FROM FRG POINT OF VIEW. ECONMIN SOURCE WHO TRAVELLED WITH DELEGATION HAD CONSIDERED THAT THE SOVIETS MIGHT BEGIN TO SET THE WHEELS IN MOTION FOR BREZHNEV'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO BONN BY OFFERING INITIATIVES OR PROPOSED AGREEMENTS IN VARIOUS SUBSECTORS OF THE ECONOMIC SPHERE. THIS WAS NOT THE CASE, HOWEVER, AND THE TWO SIDES OCCUPIED THEMSELVES WITH THE ARDUOUS TASK OF WRITING MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE PROTOCOLS COVERING THE WELL-WORN THEMES OF FURTHER EXPANSION OF TRADE RELATIONS, MORE COOPERATION IN  
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THIRD MARKETS, CLOSER COOPERATION IN THE VARIOUS INDUSTRIAL SUBSECTORS REPRESENTED BY EXPERT GROUPS, ETC. ETC. SOVIET DELEGATION WAS HEADED BY DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER MANSHULO. SCHUESSLER, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN ECONMIN, WAS TOP FRG OFFICIAL.

3. THE ISSUE OF PARTICIPATION BY AN OFFICIAL OF THE

GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMICS (DIW) IN BERLIN IN THE WORKING GROUP PROVED TO BE NO PROBLEM. THE DIW OFFICIAL PARTICIPATED IN ALL WORKING GROUP SESSIONS AND, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, WAS TREATED BETTER THAN THE BONN DELEGATION. THE FRG DOES NOT ENVISAGE DIW PARTICIPATION IN THE MIXED COMMISSION MEETING IN JUNE; THUS THE PROBLEM OF BERLIN REPRESENTATION WILL NOT ARISE.

4. THERE WAS REPORTEDLY LITTLE DISCUSSION OF MAJOR INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS SUCH AS KURSK AND THE HOECHST/UHDE PETROCHEMICAL PLANT. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF KALININGRAD. THE SOVIETS MADE OCCASIONAL REFERENCES TO THE IMPORTANCE OF CSCE AS A GUIDELINE FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, BUT HAD NO SPECIFIC POINTS TO SUGGEST.

5. THE MIXED COMMISSION WILL MEET IN BONN ON JUNE 2 AND 3 WITH DEPUTY PREMIER TIKHONOV HEADING THE SOVIET DELEGATION AND MINISTER OF ECONOMICS FRIDERICHs LEADING OFF FOR THE FRG.

6. COMMENT: WHILE THE SOVIETS OFFERED NO INITIATIVES AT THE WORKING GROUP SESSIONS, IT MAY WELL BE THAT THEY ARE SAVING THEIR PROPOSALS FOR THE MIXED COMMISSION MEETING IN BONN. WE WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE THAT BREZHNEV WOULD COME TO BONN WITHOUT ANYTHING OF SUBSTANCE TO SIGN ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE. SINCE THE FRG HAS NO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS TO PUSH AT  
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THIS TIME, THE INITIATIVE MUST COME FROM THE SOVIET SIDE.  
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## Message Attributes

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